



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED FOR METH CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a citizen of Mexico was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to smuggle drugs into the United States for distribution in the Kansas City, Mo., metropolitan area.

This case, Graves explained, was among five separate but related criminal complaints filed in Kansas and Missouri on Nov. 1, 2002, as part of a nationwide operation that involved 135 defendants in several states and Mexico.

According to Graves, the drug trafficking operation involved a large-scale organization originating in Mexico, with drug supply lines through central California, which has supplied large quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana to customers in several states, including Kansas and Missouri, since 1997. A cartel of Mexican nationals, many of whom are originally from the Mexican state of Michoacan and its vicinity, established an ongoing distribution pipeline through which hundreds of kilograms of cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana have been transported to the Kansas City metropolitan area.

**Francisco Javier Ibarra**, 28, a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to one year and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 20, 2003, **Ibarra** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine. **Ibarra** is among four defendants who have pleaded guilty in this case.

**Fernando O. Delgado**, 28, a citizen of Mexico living in Salina, Kan., was sentenced on Nov. 20, 2003, to four years in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 8, 2003, **Delgado** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine in

Jackson County, Mo., between Jan. 1, 2000, and Nov. 4, 2002.

**Santiago N. Medrano**, 31, a citizen of Mexico living in Kansas City, Kan., pleaded guilty on Sept. 9, 2003, to participating in a conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine in Jackson County, Mo., between Jan. 1, 2000, and Nov. 4, 2002. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for Dec. 3, 2004.

**Alejandro Medrano**, 29, a citizen of Mexico living in Kansas City, Kan., pleaded guilty on Aug. 21, 2003, to participating in a conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine in Jackson County, Mo., between Jan. 1, 2000, and Nov. 4, 2002. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for Dec. 3, 2004.

**Santiago Medrano** and **Alejandro Medrano** were responsible for the importation of methamphetamine brought into Kansas City, Graves said. **Ibarra** helped to facilitate the trafficking of methamphetamine by this organization, which supplied lower-level drug dealers with quantities of methamphetamine for resale.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Ambrose, Jr. The nationwide operation was coordinated by the Special Operations Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration. It was also investigated by Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Kansas City Metropolitan Methamphetamine Task Force, the I-35/I-70 Drug Task Force, and various police departments and county sheriffs' offices, including the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Kansas City, Kan., Police Department, the Johnson and Wyandotte County (Kansas) Sheriff's Departments, the Southern California Drug Task Force, and the Los Angeles High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, and other federal and local law enforcement agencies.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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